

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, HU, PFOR, SCUL

SUBJECT:CULTURAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

REF.:SOFIA 1827

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON DRAFT US CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND ARE PROVIDING FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHICH WE TRUST WILL CLARIFY DEPARTMENT/USIA OBJECTIVES AND FUTURE PLANS FOR EXCHANGES UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

2. THE US DRAFT IS PATTERNED AFTER OUR DRAFT HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT AND REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF US DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WHICH ARE EXPECTING TO CONDUCT EXCHANGES WITH BULGARIA. SINCE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH HUNGARY WILL BE LARGER, AND SINCE WE BELIEVE THE HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT WILL PRESENT FEWER PROBLEMS TO NEGOTIATE, WE HOPE BULGARIAN

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AGREEMENT COULD FOLLOW THE HUNGARIAN PATTERN TO EXTENT

POSSIBLE. OUR MAIN PROBLEM WITH BULGARIAN DRAFT IS THAT IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, INFORMATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. THIS WILL REQUIRE EXPLANATION TO GOB THAT USG CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR SOME OF THE EXCHANGES MENTIONED IN THEIR DRAFT.

3. RE FUNDING, THE PROCEDURES PROPOSED BY BULGARIANS (SENDING SIDE PAYS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF ITS GRANTEES, AND RECEIVING SIDE COVERS IN-COUNTRY COSTS) ARE, IN GENERAL, SIMILAR TO PROCEDURES WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH THE USSR AND ROMANIA AND WHICH WE HOPE TO FOLLOW IN OTHER EE COUNTRIES UNDER NEW AGREEMENTS. THESE FUNDING PROCEDURES WOULD APPLY FOR THE MOST PART ONLY TO THOSE EXCHANGES SPECIFICALLY AGREED TO IN THE PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES (WITH EXCEPTION OF PERFORMING ARTS, AND SOME OTHER, WHICH ARE FUNDED DIFFERENTLY).

4. WE DO NOT HAVE "JOINT COMMISSIONS" FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE ONE WITH BULGARIA. NEAREST THING TO SUCH A COMMISSION IN EE IS AMERICAN-YUGOSLAV EDUCATION COMMISSION, BUT THIS IS FOR FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AND IS LIMITED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. AS IN OTHER EE COUNTRIES WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET WITH BULGARIANS PERIODICALLY TO REVIEW PAST EXCHANGES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE. THE PROGRAM WE ENVISAGE FOR BULGARIA WILL BE INITIALLY RATHER MODEST, AND WE HOPE TO REDUCE TO MINIMUM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY REQUIRED. EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC EXCHANGES TO BE PROPOSED WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

5. WHILE SOME ASPECTS OF US DRAFT MAY APPEAR DIFFICULT FOR BULGARIANS, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT MOST OF US DRAFT PROVISIONS ARE RELATED TO PROVISIONS IN CSCE FINAL ACT WHICH BULGARIA HAS SIGNED.

6. EMBASSY IS CORRECT IN ASSUMING NO DESIRE ON OUR PART TO CHANGE CONTENT OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES. NAS AND IREX ARE NOT MENTIONED IN OUR DRAFT SINCE THEY ARE NOT USG AGENCIES. WHILE THEY CONDUCT NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COORDINATE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULT WITH DEPARTMENT, THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE AND NOT A DIRECT USG RESPONSIBILITY. FYI IREX HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO EXPAND ITS PROGRAM IN BULGARIA BEYOND PROVISIONS OF RECENTLY NEGOTIATED NEW TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT. THE SIZE OF ITS PROGRAM IS DETERMINED ESSENTIALLY BY THE DEMAND AND REQUIREMENTS OF US SCHOLARS FOR STUDY IN BULGARIA, AS WELL AS FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THESE PROGRAMS. AS EMBASSY AWARE, IREX PROGRAM IS RECIPROCAL, AND THE

INTEREST IN EXPANSION APPEARS TO BE MORE ON BULGARIAN SIDE. IREX HOWEVER IS WILLING TO CONSIDER HOLDING A CONFERENCE WITH THE BULGARIANS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. END FYI. AS IN ROMANIAN CASE WE PLAN TO MENTION NAS AND IREX IN PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES AS AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH WE WILL "TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO FULFILL".

7. EMBASSY SHOULD PREPARE COPY OF DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR PRESENTATION DURING VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL. EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA IS TO BE CONCLUDED ONLY AFTER THE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS.

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